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Press Release

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Idaho Potato Stocks Up 5 percent from Last Year

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers, and processors in Idaho on January 1 totaled 84.0 million cwt, 4.00 million cwt more than on hand January 1, 2007. Disappearance, at 47.7 million cwt is down from last year's 48.9 million cwt. Stocks in the 10 Southwest counties totaled 4.20 million cwt, up from last year's 4.00 million cwt. The Other counties' stocks, at 79.8 million cwt, were up from the 76.0 million cwt stored on January 1, 2007. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon used 7.03 million cwt of 2007 crop raw potatoes during December, up 1 percent from December 2006. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon have used 33.3 million cwt of 2007 crop raw potatoes to January 1, down 2.4 percent from last year. Idaho potatoes accounted for 27.8 million cwt of the total processed. The remaining 5.49 million cwt were produced in other states.

Nationally, the 13 major potato States held 238 million cwt of potatoes in storage January 1, 2008, up 5 percent from last year and 8 percent above January 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage account for 59 percent of the 2007 fall storage States' production, up 1 percentage point from last year. Potato disappearance, at 163 million cwt, is down slightly from last year but up 6 percent from two years ago. Season to date shrink and loss, at 16.0 million cwt, is down 1 percent from 2007 but 7 percent above 2 years ago. Processors in the 9 major States have used 87.7 million cwt of 2007 crop potatoes this season, down 4 percent from a year ago but 8 percent above 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 16.7 million cwt of the total processing, down 13 percent from last year but 7 percent above the same date two years ago.



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